



Legislative Committee Operating Procedures

Committee Purpose and Goals

The TWA Legislative Committee works in advance of the Texas Legislative Session to develop consensus legislation and positions on Texas water issues that inform TWA's legislative agenda. The Committee's work is limited to the interim; it does not develop positions or advise TWA during a legislative session.

Committee Scope

The scope of the Legislative Committee includes changes in state law; the Committee will not take up federal changes, local issues, changes in rules, or informational papers.

Committee Participation

The Committee is open to participation by all employees of current, dues-paying members in good standing with the Association. TWA members may not send consultants or other non-employees to participate on their behalf.

At their discretion, Committee Chairs may invite nonmember, nonprofit water associations to participate in Committee or subcommittee discussions to encourage more robust vetting of a policy issue. These nonmember organizations will not have voting privileges.

After an open enrollment period, participation in the Committee is subject to approval of the current Committee Chairs. For the 2026-2027 Committee, May 1st, 2026 will be the last day of open Committee enrollment.

Committee Rules and Procedures

Consideration of Issues and Creation of Subcommittees

At the start of the Committee process each interim, the Committee chairs will solicit proposed issues for consideration from Committee members. These issues will be outlined at an initial planning meeting, with opportunity given to each proposer to describe the issue and proposed solutions. After the meeting, Committee members will have an opportunity to complete a survey on the proposed issues, including voting on whether the Committee should take up an issue and whether consensus on that issue

seems likely. In determining the list of issues to be addressed during the interim, Committee chairs will consider the survey results, priorities of key legislators, TWA's capacity as it relates to other legislative priorities and obligations, and likelihood of achieving consensus on an issue.

The Committee chairs may create subcommittees on any or all issues before the Committee. Every effort will be made to keep subcommittees open to all Committee members, but in some cases, it may be necessary to limit subcommittee participation to those actively drafting proposals.

Voting on Proposals

For any vote before the committee, each TWA member (organization) receives only one vote, regardless of how many employees of that organization participate on the committee. The committee will follow a "90% consensus" policy as follows:

- Subcommittee: consensus will be sought; a simple majority of those participating in a meeting will be required for smaller decisions and 75% of those voting aye or nay will be required to advance draft legislation to the full Legislative Committee (abstentions and neutral votes will not be counted in the percentages).
- Full Committee: consensus will be sought; a simple majority of those participating in a meeting will be required for smaller decisions and 90% of those voting aye or nay will be required to advance draft legislation to the full TWA Board (abstentions and neutral votes will not be counted in the percentages).

Support v. Initiate

The Legislative Committee chairs may distinguish proposals during the voting process as votes to "support" or "initiate." Initiating a legislative proposal means that TWA staff will work to seek out authors/sponsors for bills and work to pass the bill. Supporting a proposal means TWA supports the proposal conceptually and TWA staff will drop a card in support of the bill or speak to offices if a bill is filed. The Support category is useful especially in cases when a proposal has its own legislative history or we need to be mindful of the use of TWA's capital and resources.

TWA Board Approval

All consensus legislation or positions that the Legislative Committee recommends initiating or supporting are subject to changes and approval by the TWA Board of Directors. Legislation and positions adopted by the TWA Board serve as TWA's legislative agenda.